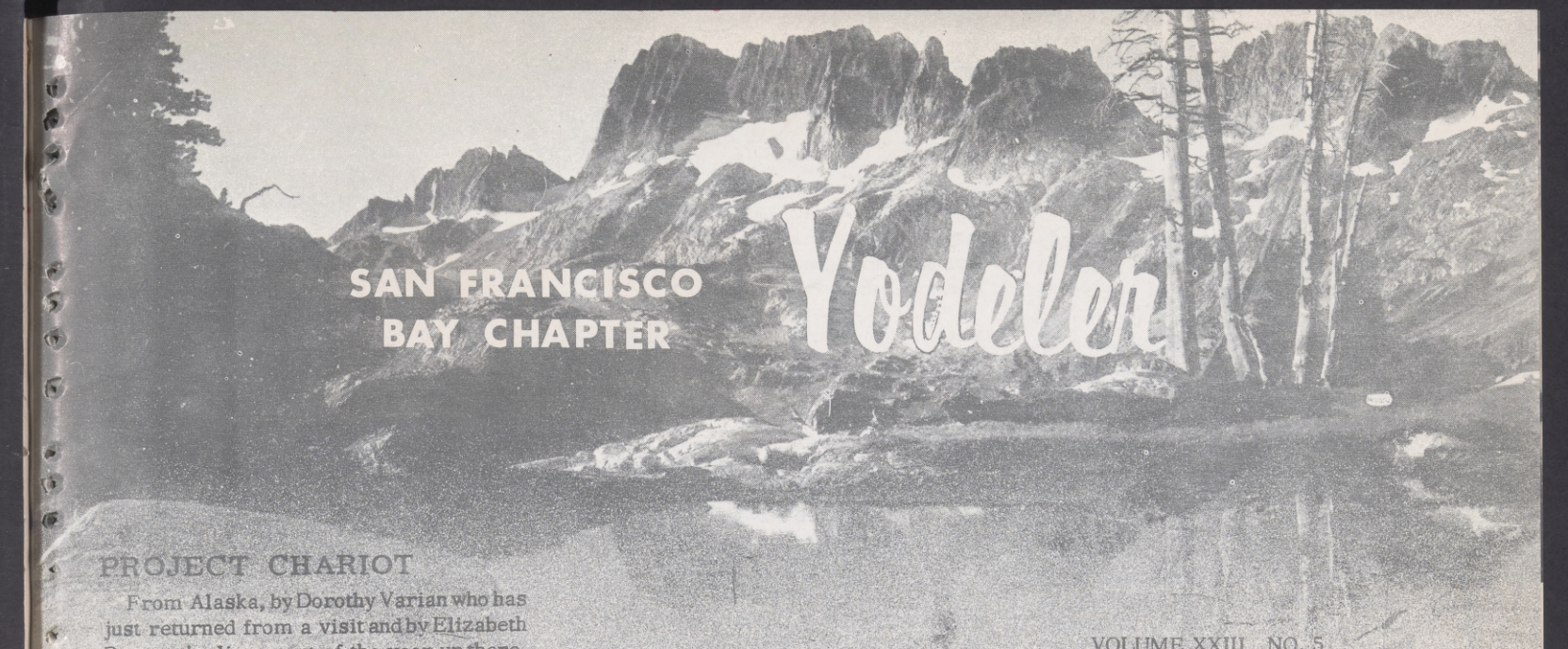

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

VOLUME XXIII NO. 5
May, 1961

PROJECT CHARIOT

From Alaska, by Dorothy Varian who has just returned from a visit and by Elizabeth Berry who lives part of the year up there, comes the latest news of Project Chariot. This is a scheme to explode nuclear bombs underground at Cape Thompson on the north coast.

It was first claimed that a fine harbor could be created there, but the A.E.C. has dropped that claim. The harbor, if any, would silt fast, and no one wants it anyway. The real purpose is new testing grounds in a supposedly remote wilderness. (Alaska, of course, has only a few wild animals and Eskimo to bother about.)

Does this all seem remote from Bay Chapter conservation? It is really very close to home. The project itself is in the hands of the Livermore laboratories, under license from the A.E.C.

Very disturbing is the official insistence that scientific opinion backs the project whereas, though geological reports are favorable, not a single biological report favors the project. Many have been made and submitted, but they are individual papers and have received no publicity. The direct damage to important breeding grounds becomes clearer as study continues. Elizabeth Berry's pictures of Cape Thompson show an established community of Eskimos living by whaling and fishing.

The rest of the world is at the other end of a "food chain" which begins with the small plants and animals which are rooted to the spot and must absorb the radiation, if any, and are eaten by larger animals which wander far away. The Arctic comes to your dinner table in the wild duck and the canned salmon. Arctic waters creep slowly along the ocean floor throughout the world. Will this happen? How will human life be affected? No one knows enough to predict with certainty. Much more time and study is needed, and the Alaska Sportsmen's Association, and the Legislature, are calling for more time and research. Meanwhile the project plows steadily onward toward the point where the argument will be that so much has been spent already that it would be a waste of money to abandon it. —C.M.C.

LETTER: Tenaya Trail

There has been some adverse criticism of the proposal to construct a trail for hikers through Tenaya Canyon based largely, it seems to me, on lack of information. Let's look at the facts.

The Board of Directors of the Sierra Club unanimously approved the proposal. Many of the directors had hiked through the canyon. Personally, I've been through seven times, two of these at high water. Although action was required at the time because of an anonymous offer to finance the trail, the policy on hikers' trails was of many years standing.

Some years ago the directors came to the conclusion that the "horse trails only" policy of the Forest and Park Services was out of date. Historically it was understandable. In the early West, hiking was for Indian squaws (also Indian bucks who did not have horses). According to tradition, early rangers used a horse to go to the outhouse.

Today hikers in the Sierra vastly outnumber vacationists on "hay burners" but hikers are compelled to wade through the dust, follow the ruts and view the well chewed meadows which result from the

CONT. PG. 2 COL. 1

JUSTICE DOUGLAS ELECTED A DIRECTOR

The successful candidates for Director are to be seated at an organization meeting of the Directors to be held on the first Saturday of May. At this time they will take their places beside the ten continuing members.

The new Directors, in order of the number of votes received, are William O. Douglas, Richard M. Leonard (incumbent), Polly (Mrs. John A.) Dyer (incumbent), Clifford V. Heimbucher (incumbent), Jules M. Eichorn.

LETTERS

Dear Yodeleditor:

You have invited comments on your April editorial.

Sierra Club members mainly interested in sports may consider the club disproportionately occupied with conservation. Undoubtedly there are clubs more eager to win prestige by sponsoring river slalom races, etc. But how many of them not only enjoy national prestige in the conservation field, but also offer as many different kinds of trips and other outdoor activities as does the Sierra Club?

Our Board of Directors may be made up primarily of conservationists, but they are hardly of the armchair variety. The president during his term of office has run rivers through Cataract Canyon and the Grand Canyon, as well as explored some remote jungle regions in Mexico. We have a first class skier on the Board and some world famous mountaineers, including a noted Himalyan and Antarctic climber. Conservation books by Board members are based on their own travels into rugged wilderness terrain. Nobody serves on the Board for the sheer fun of it; every member would probably welcome more time from paper work and conflict to engage in otdoor activities.

River runners might well remember that there would be no River Touring Section if the Club a few years ago hadn't sponsored the Yampa River trips to interest members in helping to save Echo Park in Dinosaur Monument from a dam.

A study of history will show that the Sierra Club was founded to promote conservation rather than activities. The latter still have an important place, and doubtless are engaged in by more members than the former. Nevertheless, times have changed since John Muir's day. The relentless pressures to reduce the wilder-

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Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Peter Whitney, Editor

Eunice Dodds	Jim Dodds
Ann Rogers	Donna Hennessy
Pauline Lee	Frances Whitney
Cicely Christy	
NEXT DEADLINE:	May 22
Editorial Work Night:	May 22
Volume XXIII, No. 5	May, 1961

Tenaya (Cont. from P. 1)

horse population, as well as suffer the smells and brush away the flies that result from horse ideas on sanitation. Most hikers are not integrationists when it comes to mixing horses and men in mountains.

Hikers' trails should have the following characteristics:

a) Except for short stub trails a hikers' trail should connect points already connected by a horse trail or road. This eliminates any pressure to "improve" the hikers' trail into a horse trail. The Tenaya route qualifies on both points.

b) Marking of the trail should be confined to the minimum necessary to prevent hikers from getting lost.

c) There should be no engineering of the trail. Transits and levels should be locked up during construction. Rules on maximum grades, width of turns and straight lines should be forgotten. The objective should be to develop a deer trail with sufficient brush removed through thickets to enable humans to hike where deer jump. The trail should be permitted to wander so as to display the beauties of nature rather than achieve the shortest distance between two points.

d) Treadway construction should be rigorously confined to the few spots where construction is necessary for safety. Hikers' trails are not designed for girls in high-heeled shoes or people without arms. Scrambling over boulders and crawling between huge granite blocks is a part of hiking. Short slips off rocks or boulders which will not result in serious injury should be considered a permissable hazard. A little loss of hide is a part of the education of a clumsy oaf.

e) Both construction and routing of hikers' trails should make horse use impossible. Fortunately the route through Tenaya Canyon has plenty of obstacles that can be handled easily by human scrambling but are impossible for any horse - in fact even deer cannot handle them.

If the above principles are followed the Tenaya Canyon hikers' trail will not require the blasting away of any glacial polish, provided the proposed route is followed (to err on the side of caution I might allow for a maximum length of 100 feet). The trail - except for the narrow slot through brush patches would not be observable from view points in the canyon or from the rim. Treadway construction would not exceed a quarter of a mile. For the benefit of the hiker there will be made available the experience of travelling through the deep narrow Tenaya gorge, which has no equal in the entire Sierra. In Spring and early Summer it is filled with waterfalls and waterwheels. On the south side great snow avalanche cones last well into June, yet the trail route is on the north side the entire distance.

One question remains unanswered: Should the experience of hiking through Tenaya Canyon be confined to the few who know the route and are willing to crawl on their bellies over dense oak brush, or should it be made available to enthusiastic but inexperienced hikers? Selfishly, I would prefer it as a private route for the elite so long as I was included in the select group. If, however, we wish to encourage hiking into wilderness areas and wish to convert auto campers into protectors of the wilderness, we must support the construction of not only the Tenaya hikers trail but many others also.

Bestor Robinson

Letters (Cont. from P. 1)

ness make it imperative for our main emphasis to be on conservation today. There are plenty of "activities" clubs for people whose main interests lie along these lines. And these people will always be happy to camp in the wilderness or to launch their canoes in rivers saved by the Sierra Club.

Sincerely,
Joan D. Clark
1422 Montecito Dr.
Los Angeles 31, Calif.

Dear Yodeleditor:

Was quite interested in your editorial last month. We who live so far from Mills tower always have a feeling that you of the Bay Area are in the driver's seat, but apparently you have your troubles.

We have been attempting to get permission to publish a Desert Peak Guide, for some two years. In our case the Chapter has offered to advance the money, and it is expected that the Guide would be self-supporting and even return a profit to the Desert Peak Section.

Walt Wheelock
Editor, DPS, Guide
1129 E Palmer Ave.
Glendale 5, Calif.

Yodeleditor
Dear Sir:

I wholeheartedly concur with John Bombay's contention that the Sierra Club's vigor as a conservation organization stems from its vigor as an active outdoor organization. During the eight years I have observed and participated in the outdoor activities of the Club, it seems to me that there has been a general and significant decline in vigor, which is either unrecognized or else tacitly approved by a large segment of the Clubwide leadership.

Nevertheless, I think outdoor activities, particularly those requiring specialized and expensive equipment, should be very largely self-supported. This is definitely the tradition of the Sierra Club since its founding. I think this is absolutely essential to maintaining these activities in their proper place within the total purposes of the Club. Otherwise, we might witness the folly of diverse activity groups and special interests competing for funds. Moreover, many people join and contribute to the Sierra Club specifically and only to advance its direct conservation efforts. I am sure that they do so with the assurance that a bare minimum of their money will be sidetracked into extraneous channels. Let us not discourage them.

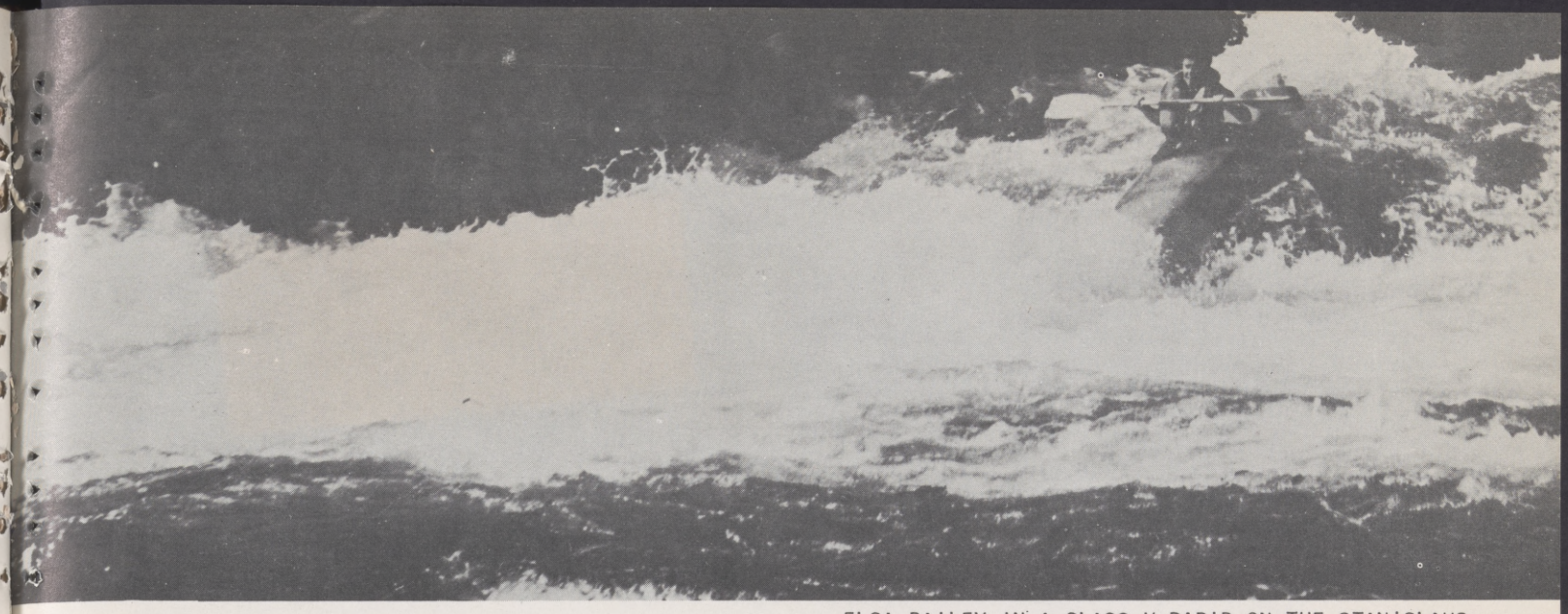
Yours truly,
Mike Loughman
2645 Shasta Road
Berkeley 8, California

Dear Yodeleditor:

Referring to John Bombay's letter quoted in the April Yodeler, the fourth paragraph states his argument. Here is what he says: "It seems to me that we have to wake up and face reality. We need to promote our activities to maintain an active outdoor-seeking Sierra Club. Otherwise we might someday find that we are a group of people who just talk and write about conservation, but who do not do anything to prove our case that people need the wilderness for active outdoor life. When that happens — we will be dead!"

I would suggest that Mr. Bombay take a good look at the S.F. Bay Chapter schedule and note that from six to eleven different hikes or outings are planned for every week-end, not to mention Natural Science Section meetings, East Bay dinners and others. This for only one chapter! The February bulletin schedules fifty different

CONTINUED PAGE 3



ELSA BAILEY IN A CLASS V RAPID ON THE STANISLAUS.

RIVER TOURING

The River Touring Section finally scouted the seven-mile run of the Stanislaus above Parot's Ferry, a trip which has been on our list for some time.

Judging by the condition of our boats at the end of the trip, it was a good thing we didn't try it in our early days. It would have been a long miserable trip with multiple portages and "linings".

We initiated several boaters into class 4 rapids. They rose to it nicely, but their boats took a beating. Peter Whitney was very pleased at the performance of his foldboat, which was the only boat which did not need repair by the time the trip was over.

Sunday, we found that the class 2 river that we had scouted several years ago at low water, had turned into a good 3 at this higher level. An old dam provided a nice drop if one kept in the clear water, and Roy tried an interesting side channel with unorthodox results - poor boat, poor Roy.

—Elsa B. Bailey

LETTERS (Continued from P. 2)

summer outings. Simple mathematics would reveal that many thousand members participate in the outdoor activities of the Club. Referring to the "purposes" of the Club, it is evident that the "explore" and "enjoy" have been and are being well taken care of.

But after all the Sierra Club is not primarily a hiking club, as Mr. Bombay seems to imply in the last paragraph of his letter, by his reference to "other outdoor clubs." To suggest that the club might become a group of people who just talk and write about conservation, shows a lack of understanding of what our club is doing. Just to mention the recent Wilderness Conference attended by 700 enthusiastic conservationists, refutes that prediction. Anyone who attended the conference knows that it took much more than talking or writing about conservation to make it the success that it was. And the work that the Club has done and is doing to promote the Wilderness Bill and the Point Reyes National Seashore, is much more than talking and writing. Ask Cicely Christy about it. John Muir did a lot of talking and writing about conservation, and see what happened! If we do not preserve the natural and scenic resources, there will be nothing to "enjoy".

Whether the Club chapters get 15%, or more or less, of the dues paid is a matter for the directors to decide in the best interests of the Club. In general, however, I think that each section should stand largely on its own feet. There could be exceptions where an activity was of overall interest and greatly furthered the "purpose" of the Club. Mr. Bombay mentions movies of the River Touring Section. Such movies, no doubt, would be interesting and instructive to many people, but yet to a small segment of the public. Would they have the value (to the Sierra Club) or the widespread appeal as that of such films as "An Island in Time" or "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin"?

No, I think that Mr. Bombay is overlooking the broad purpose of the Sierra Club, and does not see beyond the high canyon walls as he goes boating down the rapids of some majestic river.

Harold G. Sharp Oakland 18

Dear Yodeleditor:

I agree with John Bombay (April Yodeler). The Club is doing as much as it can in publishing conservation material for conservationists. We conservation-minded members know what must be done. Now the public must receive the message in terms it can understand. Let's explore ways of implementing conservation education — for which there is an urgent need — and cut down on the number of conservation articles in Club publications sent to club members.

Specifically, encourage and publish those "....technical articles on the latest methods in mountaineering, river running, or skiing..." in monthly issues of the Bulletin. In the Yodeler, the 2-3 paragraph items by Cicely Christy are excellent and make the point. Limit conservation to one of these per issue. Improve the quality of other material by shortening the length of trip writeups and by offering activities-oriented information of such subjects as mountain safety, new areas for one day hikes or wild life habits. Finally, we need publications like the Manual of Si Mountaineering (out of print) .... now!

Bill Engs

MOUNTAINEERING

The Mountaineering Section announces the start of its summer weekday evening practice rock climbs. Familiarity with the use of rope and basic climbing technique is essential to participation in any scheduled trip. The teaching of these skills will be offered to those anxious to learn. Climbs will be held frequently at local practice rocks. For times and places call any committee member listed in Summer Chapter schedule.

Monthly seminar meetings will continue with a discussion of Wilderness Travel and Weather Conditions. Meeting time - Wednesday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. For meeting place, cally any committee member.

—Bill Engs
Mountaineering Section Committee

EAST BAY DINNERS, MAY 10: Another outstanding colored movie of the Navajo Indians and their country by Frank S. Cummings.

EAST BAY DINNERS, MAY 24: The proposed Mokelumne Wilderness area.

The Sierra Club

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SNOWSHOERS' REUNION AND PARTY

Gather at Mosswood Recreation Center (MacArthur Blvd. and Broadway, Oakland) at 6:45 p.m., May 29 for dinner, slides, movies and folkdancing. Snowshoe alumni and others interested in snowshoe trips make your reservations before May 22, with checks ($1.80 per person) payable to Jean Bonner, 100 Manor Drive, Piedmont (11) or Simon Miedema, 188 Vasquez Ave., San Francisco (27), LO 4-2706.

FOR SALE: Used Hammer single slalom foldboat, in good condition, complete with spraydeck and paddles. $75.00. John Bombay, OL 2-0139 (Oakland).

FOR LEASE: Squaw Valley Chalet. Delightful, Comfortable, Charming! One year minimum term commencing July 1st. Reasonable rate. Write Joe Brower, Birmensdorferstr. 16, Uitikon a/A Zurich.

MAY 27-30 - Chews Ridge to Big Sur on coast pack trip, hiking or riding, in Santa Lucia Mts., Carmel's wilderness back country. Also beginning continuous operation at Chews Ridge Leisure Camp for weekend and longer visits, May 26 - July 4. WAMPLER TRAIL TRIPS, Box 45, Berkeley, California.

CAMP UNALAYEE

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MAMMOTH PASS ROAD OFFICIAL HEARING

A public hearing has been set for May 16 at Fresno, on the proposed Mammoth Pass highway across the Sierra. The Bureau of Public Roads will hear arguments on the "justification" of the proposal, i.e. the economic aspect, and whether the 3000 vehicles per day in summer will really materialize and bring revenue as prophesied in reports. If you don't want the road, and think value would be lost in other ways, now is the time to say so. A letter to the Bureau of Public Roads, New Mint Building, San Francisco, could state your views, and your knowledge of the area. Many would rather see Sonora Pass improved, by rerouting or a tunnel, as an all-year route across the Sierra.

TETANUS SHOTS ADVISED

As the snow line recedes, cattle are brought to the upper meadows and pack stations commence to operate. When was your last tetanus shot? The U. S. Public Health Service recommends a booster dose at four year intervals.

APPEAL FROM CIRCULATION DEPT.

Won't you please tell the Yodeler when you move — as well as the club authorities. The Sierra Club office is a big place now and a separate card to the Yodeleditor will get you better service on a change of address.

Why kick yourself?

If you don't get your tickets to the Sierra Club Annual Dinner, you'll know WHY!

WHY...because Willi Unsoeld is the featured speaker. You will get the kick of your life from the hilarious experiences this member of the party to the Masherbrum has to tell. If you think climbing over 20,000 feet in the Karakoram Himalavas is dangerous...you're right!

Don't kick yourself....last minute reservations are still available! May 6th is the date, 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland

DRESS: Informal, $4.74 each

HIKERS' BUREAU - SOME EXCHANGE TRIPS

The following events are selected from the outing schedules of other chapters, with the thought that you might like to adventure farthur afield on your weekend walks and field trips. For further information get in touch with the leader of the chapter sponsoring the outing (if written reply is requested, include a self-addressed, STAMPED envelope) or phone me, (TH 1-2442). —Margaret Gwinn

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SUNDAY, MAY 7. HIKE ON GAZOS CREEK ROAD. Leader: Norman Kimmey, ALpine 3-5002. Meet at intersection of Hiway #1 and Gazos Creek Rd., (16 mi. north of Davenport and Pinky's Cafe), 9:30 a.m. Six mile round trip to see wild flowers along Gazos Creek Rd. Bring canteen.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, May 13, 14. KNAPSACKING IN LOST VALLEY. Leader: Jack Henry, WHiteciiff 8-3045. 8-mile pleasant hike in beautiful Los Padres N.F. valley; pines, sparkling stream, yucca in bloom.

SUNDAY, MAY 28. MT. CARMEL HIKE. Leader: Bob DeYoe, MA 4-6650 or TU 5-5328 in San Francisco, weekdays. Eleven mile round trip to Devil's Pk. and Mt. Carmel. Meet at Rocky Point Lodge, 12 mi. south of Carmel on Hiway #1, 9:45 a.m. (Will then drive 8 mi. through Palo Colorado Canyon to Bouchers Gap.) Bring canteen.

REDWOOD CHAPTER

SUNDAY, MAY 7. HIKING. Leader: Clark Nattkemper, LIberty 2-6541. Meet at Berry's Saw Mill at 9:30 a.m. in Cazadero. Loop trip of 8 mi. into alpine-like foothills.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 20, 21. CAR CAMPING, FT. ROSS. Leader: John and Alice McKenzie. Inquire at Ft. Ross State Hist. Mon. for instructions. Conducted outing to see native rhododendrons.

MOTHER LODE CHAPTER

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 13, 14. CAR CAMPING IN CALAVERAS BIG TREES. Leader: Ed Hall, GL 5-2858, 5364 Young St., Sacramento. Camping among sequoias. Will visit new South Grove area.

TUESDAY, MAY 30. LOCH LEVEN LAKES. Leader: Gwen Williams, IV 7-4601, 3331 Edison Ave., Sacramento. Coord: Lore Allred, GL 3-2249, 2511 F Street, Sacramento. Meet at Library Circle (Sacramento) at 8:00 a.m. Drive to Big Bend Ranger Sta., Highway #40, just beyond Cisco Grove (meet there at 10:00 a.m.) About a 5 mile hike into a beautiful lake area on a good trail.

Word was received just at edition time that the American Canoe Association selection committee has named Bryce Whitmore to the U. S. Team (men's foldboat singles), for the World Slalom Championships to be held this summer near Dresden, East Germany.